

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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Senate Moves Forward In Fight Against Lead Poisoning

(LANSING) – State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) praised the resolve of the Senate today to protect Michigan’s children as the legislature passed her bill that would establish a statewide commission on the prevention and control of juvenile lead poisoning.

Under Sen. Scott’s proposed law, the commission would study the environmental threats of lead poisoning to children’s health, review the state’s lead poisoning program and its effectiveness, and make recommendations for improvements. Federal law requires that 100 percent of all young children enrolled in Medicaid be screened with a blood lead test.

“I am encouraged that my colleagues have chosen to protect our greatest asset – children. It is our responsibility as lawmakers to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves,” Sen. Scott said.

Detroit children make up a solid majority of the confirmed cases of lead poisoning statewide although less than half of them are tested for lead poisoning.

“These innocent children are not only victimized by an invisible menace, but by unforgiving economic factors,” Sen. Scott said as she acknowledged that most of the children affected by lead poisoning are from low-income homes.

Adhering to the African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child,” Sen. Scott’s bill calls for the commission to be made up of representatives from the medical, public, educational and governmental sectors. A partial listing of proposed members include: the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Practitioners, the Michigan Head Start Association, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the Detroit Lead Partnership, the Detroit Mayor’s Lead Task Force and the Family Independence Agency.

Sen. Scott's bill was part of package of proposals that would, among other provisions, require clinical laboratories to report findings from blood lead analyses to the health department within 30 days; criminalize the act of knowingly renting a lead-contaminated home – making it a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail or a fine of not more than \$5,000; and, create a public Lead Safe Housing Registry.

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Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.